



14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

ENGAGE, EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

June 16-17, 2025
Nashville, Tennessee





WELCOME

NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

to the Campus of the Historic

FISK UNIVERSITY

in Nashville, TN





Dr. Keith Dwight Parker
Chairman, National Civil Rights Conference

Dear National Civil Rights Conference Participants:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Fourteenth Annual National Civil Rights Conference on the campus of Fisk University. The National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc., Fisk University, and Miami University are proud to co-sponsor the Fourteenth Annual National Civil Rights Conference, and Steafast and Voices of Liberty for your support. The 2025 conference, held in Nashville (TN), will provide an opportunity to remember, reflect, and jumpstart the spirit, commitment, and courage that fueled a movement that changed the nation. During this day and age and at this time, when voting and citizenship are so important, we can and should do nothing less than follow the example of history. We appreciate your presence and participation in activities focusing on civil rights, social justice and human dignity.

The two-day conference provides a wide range of topics related to the conference theme, ***Engage, Educate and Empower: The Millennials Are Coming***. I hope you will take full advantage of the workshops, artistic productions, sessions, tours, vendors and networking opportunities that will be available.

This conference, more than any other, provides a broad range of learning experiences for you to engage in. More important, this conference promises to generate considerable intellectual dialogue and debate, as well as create opportunities to strengthen existing networks and forge new relationships.

Again, welcome to the Fourteenth National Civil Rights Conference. If I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,
Keith D. Parker
Dr. Keith D. Parker, Chair
NCRC Planning Committee



NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE



CHAIRMAN
DR. KEITH DWIGHT PARKER
kdparker@civilrightsconference.com



EX OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBER
JACQUELINE JOHNSON
johnsoj@miamioh.edu



EX OFFICIO COMMITTEE MEMBER
DR. FRANCES STATEN
fstaten877@gmail.com

PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



DR. SHIRLEY BROWN
sbrown@fisk.edu



DR. CAROLYN CARTER
drcartercarolyn@gmail.com



JOHN JAMERSON
legacytasteofthegarden@gmail.com



DR. OMEKIA MCNEAL
dro@letshavemanversation.com



LIZZY ROJAS
Lizzy.Rojas@teachforamerica.org



DR. JAMES E. WRIGHT II
James.Edward.Wright@asu.edu

NCRC WEBSITE <http://civilrightsconference.com>

NCRC Mailing Address: National Civil Rights Conference, 3282 Salinger Way, Tallahassee, FL 32311-3685



National Civil Rights Conference

Featured Speakers



DEBI GHATE

MONDAY/JUNE 16TH OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

debi.ghate@steadfast.us

Debi Ghatge is President of Steadfast as well as Executive Fellow at the State Policy Network and Initiative Director for the George Mason University's "Voices for Liberty: Free Speech, Civil Rights and Social Progress" program. She also serves as Strategic Advisor for UniteNY.

Ms. Ghatge is a trained lawyer, previously practicing civil litigation in Ontario, Canada before moving to California to join the Ayn Rand Institute. At the Institute, she oversaw the education and policy programs before serving on leadership teams at two Foundations, including the Charles Koch Foundation and the Anthem Foundation for Objectivist Scholarship. She was previously the Senior Director of Grant Strategy at The Snider Foundation and most recently the Vice President of Strategy and Programs for Philanthropy Roundtable before launching Steadfast, which provides fractional non-profit management and program execution support for non-profits interested in protecting both individual rights and flourishing communities.

Ms. Ghatge serves on the boards the National Education Empowerment Coalition, FAMM, and the National Liberty Museum. She received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Biology and French at the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Calgary.



DR. M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN, II

MONDAY/JUNE 16TH LUNCHEON SPEAKER

mc.brown@tmcf.org

Dr. M. Christopher Brown, II serves as Executive Director and Research Scientist of the Dr. N. Joyce Payne Research Center at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The Payne Center is devoted to independent research and programming that leads to pragmatic solutions to the problems incident to education, society, and the workforce. The Center is committed to social equity and research from and about historically Black colleges and universities.

Regarded as an international scholar in the areas of post-secondary education, public policy, research design, organizational governance, institutional contexts, social justice and diasporic racial dynamics, Dr. Brown has lectured and/or presented over 400 keynotes and research papers in various countries on six of seven continents. He is the Founder of the Atwood Institute on Race, Education, and the Democratic Ideal and the former Executive Director and Chief Research Scientist of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the United Negro College Fund. Dr. Brown's research has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Spencer Foundation, AT&T Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Sallie Mae Fund, as well as other foundations and corporations.

He is the author/editor of 20 books and monographs, including two editions of the bestselling textbook, *Organization and Governance in Higher Education* — and over 100 journal articles, book chapters, and publications related to education and society. A two-time recipient of the Philip C. Chinn Book Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education, Dr. Brown also received the Association for the Study of Higher Education's Promising Scholar/Early Career Award and the AERA Committee on Scholars of Color Early Career Contribution Award.



National Civil Rights Conference

Featured Speakers



CLARENCE H. CARTER

TUESDAY/JUNE 16TH OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

clarence.h.carter@tn.gov

Clarence H. Carter was appointed to serve as a member of Governor Bill Lee's Cabinet as the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) in January 2021. Mr. Carter leads the state's second-largest agency with an operating budget of more than \$3 billion and nearly 4,000 employees working in offices in all 95 counties. Through more than 17 programs and services, the Department partners with Tennesseans to facilitate nutrition programs, employment assistance, vocational training, and protective services to enhance their well-being. Mr. Carter serves as chair of the State's Families First Community Advisory Board and Child Care Task Force, and as a member of the State's Coordinating Task Force; each dedicated to innovation in determining collaborative solutions to better serve Tennesseans.

Mr. Carter is a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow and 2022 recipient of the Spirit of Fatherhood Judge David Gray Ross Award from the National Partnership for Community Leadership. Mr. Carter also serves as a thought leader on issues in human services, presenting at national conferences and testifying before Congress. Mr. Carter has more than 30 years of experience in the public safety net space, including serving four governors, a mayor and in the administrations of President George W. Bush and President Donald Trump.

Mr. Carter served as Director of the Arizona Department of Economic Security and Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services. He also managed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and served as the Director of the Office of Community Services. On the local level, Mr. Carter served as Director of the Washington, D.C., Department of Human Services, where he led an initiative to transform the District's shelter-based homeless system to one that assisted those served to finding permanent residency. In 2015, Mr. Carter founded the Institute for the Improvement of the Human Condition. At that organization, he worked with state and local safety net agencies to meet the emergency needs of socially and economically vulnerable citizens.



DR. DIANNA HOLLINS

TUESDAY/JUNE 17TH LUNCHEON SPEAKER

diannaglobalenterprises@gmail.com

Dr. Dianna Hollins was born in Bessemer, Alabama, but presently resides in Macon, Georgia. She is an international and millennial speaker who has traveled intensively to empower thousands throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Caribbean Islands, and South Africa. She is the developer of 24 curriculums on leadership and spiritual development as well as an author of six books entitled *Pregnant with Purpose: How to Avoid A Spiritual Miscarriage*, *40-Day Declaration of Power*, *P.A.I.N. (Powerful Anointed in Neutral) Volume 1: Just the Beginning*, *P.A.I.N. (Powerful Anointed in Neutral) Volume 2: From Pain to Beauty*, *Formulas of a Prosperous Life*, and *100 Seeds: Conquering the Battlefield of The Mind*.

Dr. Hollins has served in the educational sector for over 20+ years. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Elementary/Early Childhood Education from the University of Alabama of Tuscaloosa, a Master's in both Elementary Education and Education Administration from the University of West Alabama of Livingston, a Doctoral (Ed. D) in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is a graduate of Kingdom University School of Ministry where she was recognized as salutatorian. She receives guidance from her spiritual parents, John Eckhardt of Chicago, IL and Dr. Cindy Trimm-Tomlinson of Stockbridge, GA.

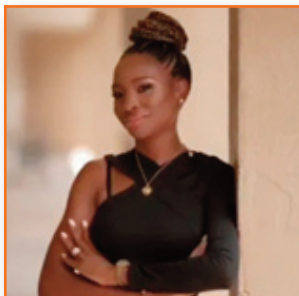
Along with being a prolific teacher, inspirational speaker and mentor, she currently serves as the Overseer of The House of Shekinah Glory of Macon, Georgia, and Former Interim Pastor of Lighthouse of Deliverance Outreach Ministry in Orangeburg, South Carolina where she operated in Apostleship. She is the founder of Dr. Dianna Global Enterprises, E4 Academy, The Deal Breaker Inc., Ekklesia Global Conference, and Saving Our Sisters (S.O.S.) Women Network, Inc. (a 501c3 non-profit organization) that has served over 8000 people within the last 14 years.

She has received numerous outstanding awards & honors from non-profit organizations, businesses, local, state, and federal governments. Dr. Hollins has been noted by the historical Georgia Informer Newspaper in 2013, as one of Middle Georgia's Top Ten Female Pastors based on her innovations & community impact.



2025 NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Awardees



JESSICA FORTUNE BARKER

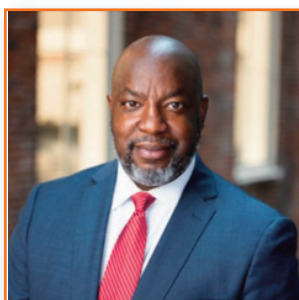
Jessica Fortune Barker is a visionary business strategist and community advocate dedicated to advancing communities from sustainability to thriving. Jessica leads a dynamic and diversified business enterprise strategically positioned to foster cross-industry collaborations, driving positive societal impact on a global scale through transformative education and impactful engagement. As CEO & Principal Strategist of Affluent Business Consulting, LLC, Jessica delivers executive level business strategy and tailored support that will start, scale, or shift your business or venture. As President of AL Association for the Arts, Inc, Jessica leads a non-profit community organization serving to transform communities through Civics and Arts. Jessica is also the Founder & Lead Organizer of Lift Our Vote, a movement to create a culture of Voting, with a focus on marginalized communities. Following an open craniotomy surgery in 2019, Jessica made a profound commitment to live a life full of purpose and impact. She firmly believes that each new day presents an opportunity to grow and become the best version of oneself.



HONORABLE RACHEL L. BELL

Judge Rachel L. Bell is the 1st openly bi-sexual judge in Tennessee and a 4th generation Native Nashvillian where she resides with her wife, Dr. Dorsha. She played NCCA, Division I-Women's Basketball at Auburn University, winning a SEC Tournament Championship and finished her collegiate career at The University of Memphis earning a BS and her JD from Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

In 2012, she was elected and was the youngest elected Judge in Nashville. She founded the Music City Community Court which is the 1st in the State of TN. The Court is focused on preventative, diversionary and restorative justice. Judge Rachel's work has been featured nationally with the White House Eviction Prevention Summit and MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Show with Former Secretary of HUD, Julian Castro. In 2023, she was honored to swear one of the TN 3, Justin Pearson, back into office to serve the TN House of Representatives.



DR. M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN, II

Dr. M. C. Brown II serves as Executive Director and Research Scientist of the Dr. N. Joyce Payne Research Center at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. The Payne Center is devoted to independent research and programming that leads to pragmatic solutions to the problems incident to education, society, and the workforce. The Center is committed to social equity and research from and about historically Black colleges and universities. Regarded as an international scholar in the areas of post-secondary education, public policy, research design, organizational governance, institutional contexts, social justice and diasporic racial dynamics, Dr. Brown has lectured and/or presented over 400 keynotes and research papers in various countries on six of seven continents. He is the Founder of the Atwood Institute on Race, Education, and the Democratic Ideal and the former Executive Director and Chief Research Scientist of the Frederick D. Patterson Research Institute of the United Negro College Fund. Dr. Brown's research has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation, Lumina Foundation, Spencer Foundation, AT&T Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Sallie Mae Fund, as well as other foundations and corporations.



DR. AGENIA WALKER CLARK

Dr. Agenia Walker Clark most recently served as CEO for the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee — where, during her 19-year tenure, she increased the agency's operational efficiencies, increased its reserves, built new facilities, and transformed the agency into one of the highest performing of the 111 councils in the Girl Scout network. "Dr. Clark's lifelong dedication to improving the lives of young people, along with her unique combination of fundraising and brand-building skills, are exactly what Fisk needs today," said Juliette Pryor, chair of the Fisk Board of Trustees. "I know that Dr. Clark's bold ideas will positively impact our campus community today while assuring a fast-growing trajectory for the future." Prior to the Girl Scouts, Dr. Clark was the Vice President of Human Resources for the Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation, Senior Director of Human Resources at Vanderbilt University and directed human resources for Canadian telecommunications provider Nortel Networks, where she also served as a manager of government relations. She currently serves on the corporate board of directors for FirstBank Financial Corporation (NYSE: FBK) as well as the boards of trustees for Belmont and Simmons Universities — and is a trustee emerita on the board of the Haslam School of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.



JIMMY GARLAND

Jimmy Garland is a prominent civil rights leader and the current president of the NAACP chapter in Clarksville, Tennessee. With a strong commitment to social justice and equality, Garland has been instrumental in advocating for the rights of marginalized communities. He has a background in community organizing and has worked on various initiatives aimed at improving education, economic opportunities, and healthcare access for African Americans.

Under his leadership, the NAACP has focused on addressing systemic racism and promoting voter registration efforts. Garland is known for his passionate speeches and community engagement, inspiring many to take action in their pursuit of civil rights.



2025 NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

Awardees



DR. GLENDA BASKIN GLOVER

Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, Ph.D, JD, CPA, of Nashville, Tennessee is the International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, the oldest Greek-letter organization established by African American college women. Dr. Glover will lead the prestigious 114-year-old organization of nearly 320,000 members and over 1000 chapters located all over the world, from 2018 – 2022. Dr. Glover is a native of Memphis, Tennessee. As the daughter of a civil rights activist and from a family immersed in the Movement, she determined early that education and equal justice were important for all people of color. Her educational development began as a student at Tennessee State University where she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics with honors. She earned her Master of Business Administration Degree in Accounting at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia and her Doctor of Philosophy in Economics and Business Degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dr. Glover earned her Juris Doctor Degree from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. She is a certified public accountant, a licensed attorney, and one of a handful of African American women to hold the Ph.D.-CPA-J.D. combination in the United States.



DR. DIANNA HOLLINS

Dr. Dianna Hollins, a mother of two daughters, was born in Bessemer, Alabama, but presently resides in Macon, Georgia. She is an international and millennial speaker who has traveled intensively to empower thousands throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Caribbean Islands, and South Africa. She is the developer of 24 curriculums on leadership and spiritual development as well as an author of six books entitled *Pregnant with Purpose: How to Avoid A Spiritual Miscarriage*, *40-Day Declaration of Power*, *P.A.I.N. (Powerful Anointed in Neutral) Volume 1: Just the Beginning*, *P.A.I.N. (Powerful Anointed in Neutral) Volume 2: From Pain to Beauty*, *Formulas of a Prosperous Life*, and *100 Seeds: Conquering the Battlefield of The Mind*. Dr. Dianna has been historically placed and archived in the United States Library of Congress in the Nation's Capital, Washington D.C. as an influential service leader under the former Presidential Cabinet of President Obama which also nationally endorses her ability to empower others in leading others.



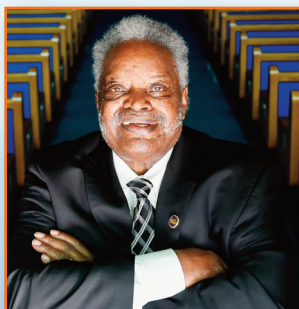
LONNELL MATTHEWS, JR.

Lonnell Matthews, Jr. has consistently exemplified visionary leadership, innovation, and advocacy in the pursuit of equity and justice. As the first Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Safety in Nashville and former Councilman, his commitment to systemic reform and restorative justice has transformed policy and uplifted communities most impacted by violence and inequality. Through initiatives addressing youth engagement, violence reduction, and neighborhood revitalization, he has led with compassion, data-driven strategy, and bold action. Lonnell's work bridges the gap between government and community, ensuring that safety and dignity are not privileges, but rights afforded to all. His dedication to creating lasting change and empowering residents to shape their futures makes him a true champion of civil rights and social progress. The Honorable Lonnell Matthews, Jr. has had a storied career in public service, from being the youngest African American elected to Nashville's City Council at age 27, in 2007, to most recently being elected as Nashville's first African American Juvenile Court Clerk in 2018 and re-elected to this position in 2022. In addition to his elected office, Lonnell is the Co-Founder of the My Brother's Keeper Nashville Alliance Partnership, where he works with partners to close achievement gaps for boys and young men of color.



REV. HORACE L. SHEFFIELD, III

Rev. Horace L. Sheffield, III, was born in Detroit, Michigan during the midst of the civil rights and labor movements. The legacy of his father, Horace L. Sheffield, Jr., who was the president of the Negro American Labor Council (NALC) helped shape and expose him to a great model of servant leadership and prophetic societal challenge. With this foundation social activism has been the driving force in many of his efforts to help move change in the black community. Rev. Sheffield is the CEO of The Detroit Association of Black Organizations (DABO) where he leads and builds the Detroit community by developing the skills, abilities, and resources that organizations and communities need to be sustainable in this fast-changing world. The organization's main purpose is to impact and enrich lives across the city of Detroit. DABO has had many successful initiatives under Rev. Sheffield including: COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, blood pressure management, hosting leadership training, HIV prevention, community development, and much more. Rev. Sheffield is currently the president of the Michigan Chapter of the National Action Network (NAN), national chairperson of Restore Black Wall Street 2021 campaign, chairperson of the Detroit Ecumenical Ministers Alliance, lifetime member of the NAACP, and national board members of the Black Leadership Commission on Aide and the National Cares Movement.



REV. JAMES "TEX" THOMAS

The Rev. James "Tex" Thomas has had a remarkable journey, marked by two significant handshakes: one with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and another with James Earl Ray. These encounters reflect the complexities of his life and career as a prominent pastor in Nashville. For 45 years, Thomas led the Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church, gaining a reputation as a passionate advocate for civil rights and the marginalized. He is often referred to as the "mayor of Jefferson Street," with some even calling him the unofficial mayor of Nashville. "He has probably been the most influential pastor in Nashville in more than a hundred years," said Rev. George Brooks, a close friend and fellow pastor. "Service. It's always been about service." At 76 years old and recently retired, Thomas reflects on his early days. He hitchhiked from Beaumont, Texas, to Nashville in 1964 to study theology at American Baptist College. Initially skeptical about the civil rights movement, he was inspired by leaders like Rev. Kelly Miller Smith Sr. to join the fight for equality. As a confident freshman, Thomas boldly approached King during his visit to Tennessee State University, shaking his hand and solidifying his commitment to the movement. Rev. James "Tex" Thomas's life is a powerful narrative of service, struggle, and spiritual leadership. His experiences with both King and Ray encapsulate the complexities of the civil rights movement and the enduring quest for justice and understanding.



6:00 am – 9:00 am	HOT BUFFET STYLE BREAKFAST/REGISTER HOTEL GUESTS A complimentary full breakfast is available to registered guests from 6:00 to AM to 9:00 AM.	Embassy Suites
8:00am – 4:00pm	Setup Vendor Tables	Parrish Center, Room 2
8:00am – 4:00pm	REGISTRATION	Parrish Center, Room 2
8:30am – 9:10am	WELCOME	Appleton Room
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Wendy Thompson, Vice President and Chief of Staff, Office of the President Fisk University• Keith D. Parker, PhD, 2025 National Civil Rights Conference Chair	
	OPENING KEYNOTE	Appleton Room
	INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Dr. Keith D. Parker
	SPEAKER	Debi Ghate Partner at Steadfast and Initiative Director, Voices for Liberty
9:15am - 10:30am	SESSION 1-A	Library, Room 316
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freedom in Your Bloodline: Uncovering the Spirit of Civil Rights Through Your Family’s Genealogy and Stories Dr. Carolyn Carter, Professional Genealogist, Historian, and Researcher Storykeepers Heritage Network LLC• What More Can I Do: Examining the Impact of Dr. Attorney John Due on Civil Rights Legislation in Florida Professor Caroline D. Vickers, Esq., Barry University School of Law	
	Moderator	LeRon L. Barton Entrepreneurial artist, writer, author & speaker
	SESSION 1-B	Library, Room 318
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Implementation of the 1798 Alien Enemies Act and its Impacts on Immigrants, Human Rights and Social Services Dr. Cameron Sumlin, University of Louisiana, Monroe Dr. Ogbonnaya John Nwoha Louisiana Tech University Dr. Lemmy Akoma, Grambling State University Dr. Frances Staten, Retired, Grambling State University• Opening My Eyes to Truths Unknown: Teaching Civil Rights Youth Narratives to a New Generation Antoinette Gazda, PhD., Valdosta State University	
	Moderator	Kim Johnson Board Member, NEEC-INC.ORG

14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE - **MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025** - *Continued*

SESSION 1-C

Library, Room 321

- Remember 2 Lock Your Car™ – A Simple Action, A Lifesaving Impact
Sandra Collins, Founder Blue Light™ Community Outreach
- Rent is on the Rise: Examining Eviction, Poverty, and COVID-19 Rent Relief Payments
Keandra Davis, Doctoral Student, Virginia Commonwealth University

Moderator

*Dr. Keith D. Parker
2025 National Civil Rights Conference Chair*

SESSION 1-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Location TBD

10:40am – 12:00 pm SESSION 2-A

Library, Room 316

- Preparing Students to Thrive in Overtly Anti-DEIA Spaces
Yolanda Harper, PhD, University of Arizona Global Campus
- We the People: A Collective Biography on U.S. Immigrants
Yasmina Benachour, Student, University of Hawaii at Mānoa

Moderator

*John Jamerson
Legacy Taste of The Garden LLC*

SESSION 2-B

Library, Room 318

- Public Policy Around how to Make Black America Healthy Again - Litigation & Regulatory Changes needed in the FDA and HHS. - Jo Saint-George case against Cedar Sinai Hospital "They're Trying to Kill Us" Why Plant Food As Medicine NOW is So Critical
Jo Saint-George, Chief Legal Officer
- The Impact of Executive Orders on DEI and 501(c)(3) Organizations:
Navigating Advocacy in a Shifting Legal Landscape
Walter James, Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Reform Advocates

Moderator

*Dr. Ogonnaya John Nwoha
Louisiana Tech University*

SESSION 2-C

Library, Room 321

- True or False: Free Speech = Power for Civil Rights Activists
- Panelists
Debi Ghate, Partner at Steadfast and Initiative Director, Voices for Liberty
Dr. Elaine K. Arnott, President and CEO, National Liberty Museum
Monica Harris, Executive Director, Fair For All

Moderator

*Dr. Shirley Rainey-Brown
Professor of Sociology, Fisk University*

SESSION 2-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Location TBD

14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE - **MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025** - *Continued*

12:10pm – 1:30pm	DR. RONALD SCOTT AND DEBORAH SCOTT RECOGNITION LUNCHEON	Appleton Room
	INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER	Dr. Keith D. Parker
	LUNCHEON KEYNOTE	Dr. M. Christopher Brown, II Executive Director and Research Scientist Dr. N. Joyce Payne Research Center at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund
	AWARDS PRESENTATIONS	Dr. Keith D. Parker
1:40pm – 2:50pm	SESSIONS 3-A, B & C • Featured Presentation, Daniel A. Baxter A Fight for Justice: The Story of Dr. Ossian Sweet	Appleton Room
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Dr. Carolyn Carter</i>
	SESSION 3-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	Location TBD
3:20pm – 4:30pm	SESSION 4-1-A • A permanent exhibit that tells the pivotal and dramatic story of Nashville's role in winning women the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.	Votes for Women-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Nashville Public Library</i>
	SESSION 4-1-B • A permanent space for reflection and education about the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville and around the world.	Civil Rights Room-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Nashville Public Library</i>
	SESSION 4-1-C	Room TBD-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Dr. Carolyn Carter</i>
	SESSION 4-1-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	Location TBD
	SESSION 4-2-A • A permanent exhibit that tells the pivotal and dramatic story of Nashville's role in winning women the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.	Votes for Women-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Nashville Public Library</i>
4:30pm – Until	SESSION 4-2-B • A permanent space for reflection and education about the Civil Rights Movement in Nashville and around the world.	Civil Rights Room-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Nashville Public Library</i>
	SESSION 4-1-C	Room TBD-Nashville Public Library
	<i>Moderator</i>	<i>Dr. Carolyn Carter</i>
	SESSION 4-2-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	Location TBD
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	MINGLE WITH REGISTERED HOTEL GUESTS AT THE COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION	Embassy Suites registered guests



14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025 - Fisk University - Parrish Center

6:00 am – 9:00 am	HOT BUFFET STYLE BREAKFAST/REGISTER HOTEL GUESTS A complimentary full breakfast is available to registered guests from 6:00 to AM to 9:00 AM.	Embassy Suites
8:00am – 4:00pm	SETUP VENDOR TABLE	Parrish Center, Room 2
8:00am – 4:00pm	REGISTRATION	Parrish Center, Room 2
8:30am – 9:10am	WELCOME	Appleton Room Dr. Shirley Rainey-Brown Debi Ghat
	PRESENTATION OF SPEAKER	
	MORNING KEYNOTE	Commissioner Clarence H. Carter Tennessee Department of Human Services
9:15am - 10:30am	SESSIONS 5-A, B & C No One Left Behind: How Policies and Partnerships can Improve Outcomes for Our Struggling Neighbors Panelists Clarence H. Carter, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Services Justin Owen, President & CEO, Beacon Center of Tennessee <i>Moderator</i>	Appleton Room <i>Debi Ghat</i>
	SESSION 5-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	Location TBD
10:40am – 12:00pm	SESSION 6-A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Rights Opportunities During the Trump Administration - Time to Use the Carrot and Not the Stick in this Leg of the Civil Rights Battle - We Are Fighting Hypocrisy not Trump Jo Saint-George, Chief Legal Officer, jo@Woc4EqualJustice.org Under Siege: a personal experience of defending civil rights via Institutional, State and Federal oversight systems Keiron Bailey, PhD, Research Innovation and Impact, University of Arizona <i>Moderator</i>	Library, Room 316 <i>Dr. Lemmy Akoma</i> <i>Grambling State University</i>
	SESSION 6-B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bridging the Gap: Empowering Youth for Favorable Encounters with Law Enforcement Jerome Hill, Council Chair, Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Millennials and Monuments Invite Narratives, Counternarratives, Information, Truth and Power Dr. Vesta Daniel, Ohio State University/Miami University <i>Moderator</i>	Library, Room 318 <i>Dr. Keith D. Parker</i>

14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE - **TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025** - *Continued*

SESSION 6-C

Library, Room 321

- **Let Our Voices be Heard: Black Middle-Class Non-Participatory Politics/Political Maroonage in Philadelphia**
Matthew Simmons, PhD, University of Alabama-Birmingham
- **The Tip of the Spear: The Louisiana Congressional Redistricting Case and the Long Struggle Against Black Political Power**
Dr. Albert L. Samuels, Southern University and A&M College

Moderator

John Jamerson

SESSION 6-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Location TBD

12:10pm – 1:30pm

AUTHORS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER LUNCHEON KEYNOTE

Appleton Room
Dr. Keith D. Parker
Dr. Dianna Hollins
Founder, Dianna Global Enterprises

1:40pm – 3:00pm

SESSION 7-A

Library, Room 316

- **Black Icons Miles Davis and Martin Luther King, Jr: Work or Text**
Dr. Toni Shorter Smith, Miami University
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Mayor Richard J. Daley: Radical Social Movement Engagement with Northern Jim Crow Power Structures
Dr. Fredrick Douglass, Director, Black Global Studies, Western Carolina University

Moderator

Dr. James Bush

SESSION 7-B

Library, Room 318

- **No Millennial Left Behind: Engaging, Educating, and Empowering Through Financial Literacy**
Dr. Dianna Hollins, founder of Dr. Dianna Global Enterprises, Liberty House in Jackson, MS
Thomas M. Kersen, Ph.D., Jackson State University
Tiffany L. Hoard-Aaron, Jackson State University

Moderator

*Dr. Omekia McNeal
Member, 2025 NCRC
Planning Committee*

SESSION 7-C

Library, Room 321

- **Lessons Learned from the Mythical Millennials: Mitigating Biases that are Counterproductive to Civil and Human Rights**
Yolanda Harper, Ph.D., University of Arizona Global Campus
- **Traces of Elaine: Recovering the Long-Forgotten Photographs of a Civil Rights Photographer**
Alysia Steele, Ph.D., The University of Mississippi

Moderator

Dr. R. Michelle Hickey

SESSION 7-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Location TBD

3:10pm – 4:00pm

SESSION 8-A

Library, Room 316

- **Let's Have Manversation® Engaging the Next Generation of Male Leaders in Mental, Social & Civic Responsibility**
Dr. R. Michelle Hickey, CoRren Radio™
Dr. James Bush, LPC, Let's Have Manversation Inc®
- **Investigating Post-Secondary Education Completion Disparities Among Black Males: A Study on Retention Rates and Support Services at HBCUs in Florida**
Yata Caine, Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys

Moderator

*Sandra Collins, Founder Blue Light™
Community Outreach*

14TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE - **TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025** - *Continued*

	SESSION 8-B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop - Connecting Generational Miracles: Embracing Growth Mindsets to Navigate the Legacy and Future of the Black Community Shandon Richardson From Awareness to Action: DEIBA Strategies for GBV Prevention Karen Melissa-Lopez Scott L.I.F.E. Recovery, Training & Coaching Moderator	Library, Room 318 Nicole Martin <i>Know Your Rights Camp- Autopsy Initiative Legal Program Director</i>
	SESSION 8-C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowering the Youth to Control the Narrative Community Power: Cultivating a Movement of Informed and Inspired Leaders Moderator	Library, Room 321 LeRon L. Barton, Entrepreneurial artist, writer, author & speaker Asani Myers, Know Your Rights Camp, Program Dir. of Community Engagement Dr. Yolanda Harper <i>University of Arizona Global Campus</i>
	SESSION 8-D YOUTH EMPOWERMENT	Location TBD
4:10pm – 5:00pm	SESSION 9-A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advancing Justice Through Forensic Transparency: The KYRC (Know Your Rights Camp) Autopsy Initiative Panelists Griselda Garcia, Know Your Rights Camp- Autopsy Initiative - Program Manager Nicole Martin, Know Your Rights Camp- Autopsy Initiative - Legal Program Director Kiana Wilgus, Know Your Rights Camp - Autopsy Initiative - Operations Manager Moderator	Library, Room 316 Dr. Fredrick Douglass <i>Director, Black Global Studies, Western Carolina University</i>
	SESSION 9-B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But They Can't Take Away the African Burial Ground, Can They? A Discussion among Students and Educators MaryLynn Navarro, PhD, The City University of New York, Kingsborough Community College Moderator	Library, Room 318 Dr. R. Michelle Hickey
	SESSION 9-C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoring the Vote: Empowering Formerly Incarcerated Citizens Through Advocacy and Policy Reform Workshop: Pastor Kenneth Glasgow, Founder, The Ordinary People Society Founder, Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People and Families Movement Founder, Men and Women's Rights – Let My People Vote Moderator	Library, Room 321 Dr. Keith D. Parker
	Fisk University Art Gallery(ies)	TBD
5:30pm - 7:00pm	MINGLE WITH REGISTERED HOTEL GUESTS AT THE COMPLIMENTARY RECEPTION	Embassy Suites Registered guests

PRESENTER	SESSION	AFFILIATION
DR. LEMMY AKOMA	Sessions I-B & 6-A	Grambling State University
ALAINE K. ARNOTT	Session 2-C	National Liberty Museum
KEIRON BAILEY	Session 6-A	University of Arizona
LERON L. BARTON	Sessions I-A & 8-C	Entrepreneurial artist, writer, author & speaker
DANIEL A. BAXTER	Session 3 A-C	Founder, Ossian Sweet Foundation
YASMINA BENACHOUR	Session 2-A	University of Hawaii at Manoa
M. CHRISTOPHER BROWN, II	Luncheon Keynote - Monday	
JAMES BUSH	Sessions 7-A & 8-A	
YATA CAINE	Session 8-A	Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
CAROLYN CARTER	Session I-A, 3 A-C	Professional Genealogist
CLARENCE H. CARTER	Tuesday Morning Keynote Sessions 5- A, B & C	Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Human Services Tennessee Department of Human Services
SANDRA COLLINS	Sessions I-C & 8-A	Founder Blue Light™ Community Outreach
VESTA DANIEL	Session 6-B	Ohio State University/Miami University
KEANDRA DAVIS	Session I-C	Virginia Commonwealth University
FREDRICK DOUGLASS	Sessions 7-A & 9-A	Western Carolina University
ANTOINETTE GAZDA	Session I-B	Valdosta State University
GRISELDA GARCIA	Session 9-A	Know Your Rights Camp
DEBI GHATE	Opening Keynote Speaker Sessions 2-C & 5A – C	
PASTOR KENNETH GLASGOW	Session 9-C	Founder, The Ordinary People Society Founder, Formerly Incarcerated Convicted People and Families Movement Founder, Men and Women’s Rights – Let My People Vote
YOLANDA HARPER	Session 2-A, 7-C & 8-C	University of Arizona Global Campus
MONICA HARRIS	Session 2-C	Fair For All, Fair For All

PRESENTER	SESSION	AFFILIATION
R. MICHELLE HICKEY	Sessions 7-A & 9-B	TBD
JEROME HILL	Session 6-B	Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys
TIFFANY L. HOARD-AARON	Session 7-B	Jackson State University
DIANNA HOLLINS	Luncheon Keynote - Tuesday Session 7-B	Founder, Dr. Dianna Global Enterprises
WALTER JAMES	Session 2-B	Civil Rights and Criminal Justice Reform Advocates
THOMAS M. KERSEN	Session 7-B	Jackson State University
NICOLE MARTIN	Sessions 8-B & 9-A	Know Your Rights Camp
DR. OMEKIA MCNEAL	Session 7-B	
ASANI MYERS	Session 8-C	Program Director of Community Engagement
NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Sessions 4-I-A & B & C Sessions 4-2-A & B & C	
MARYLYNN NAVARRO	Session 9-B	Kingsborough Community College
OGBONNAYA JOHN NWOHA	Sessions I-B & 2-B	Louisiana Tech University
JUSTIN OWEN	Sessions 5- A & B & C	President & CEO, Beacon Center of Tennessee
KEITH D. PARKER	Chairman	NEEC-INC.ORG
SHIRLEY RAINEY-BROWN	Session 2-B	Fisk University
DAVID RAMSEY	Session TBD	
SHANDON RICHARDSON	Session 8-B	
JO SAINT-GEORGE	Session 2-B & 6-A	
ALBERT L. SAMUELS	Session 6-C	Southern University and A&M College
KAREN MELISSA-LOPEZ SCOTT	Session 8-B	
MATTHEW SIMMONS	Session 6-C	University of Alabama-Birmingham
TONI SHORTER SMITH	Session 7-A	Miami University
DR. FRANCES STATEN	Session I-B	Retired, Grambling State University
DR. ALYSIA STEELE	Session 7-C	University of Mississippi
DR. CAMERON SUMLIN	Session I-B	University of Louisiana, Monroe
CAROLINE D. VICKERS	Session I-A	Barry University School of Law
KIANA WILGUS	Session 9-A	Know Your Rights Camp



Civil Rights and Social Justice Award Recipients

Past and Present

2025 NASHVILLE, TN - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Jessica Fortune Barker
- Judge Rachel L. Bell
- Dr. M. Christopher Brown
- Dr. Agenia Walker Clark
- Jimmy Garland
- Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover
- Dr. Dianna Hollins
- Lonnell Matthews, Jr.
- Reverend Horace Sheffield
- Reverend James 'Tex' Thomas

2024 HUNTSVILLE, AL - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Dr. Penny Brown Reynolds
- Rep. Laura Hall
- William Hampton
- Nadine Strossen
- Buelah Ballard Toney

2023 TALLAHASSEE, FL - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEE

- Reverend Dr. Ernest Ferrell
- William Gary
- Dot Inman-Johnson
- Revend. Henry Steele
- Sheyann Webb-Christbug

2022 BATON ROUGE, LA - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Jerome H. Smith
- Calvin Johnson
- Bob Moses
- Don Hubbard
- Robert Jones
- Edwin Williams, Sr.
- Fred Johnson
- Kevin Griffin
- Matt Suarez
- Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins

2021 OXFORD, OH - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Reverend James Lawson
- Cecile Scoon, Esquire
- Dr. LaMarr D. Shields
- Carl B. Westmoreland

2020 CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Postponed due to COVID-19

2019 BIRMINGHAM, AL - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Tyrone C. Parker
- Attorney Angela A. Allen-Bell
- Ernest Sickey

2018 MERIDIAN, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Pamela D.C. Junior
- Attorney Faya Rose Toure'
- State Senator Henry 'Hank Sanders
- Dr. Frances Staten
- Dr. Willie J. Greer Kimmons
- Grand Master Maurice F. Lucas

2017 MERIDIAN, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.
- Mrs. Mable Hoskins Oatis
- Dr. Ann Elizabeth Armstrong
- Dr. Gregory Crawford
- Eva M. Tisdale

2016 MERIDIAN, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- April Love
- Asa Gordon
- Reverend Neddie Winters
- Dave Dennis
- Johnny Delk

2015 MERIDIAN, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Awardees from conference in Mississippi

2014 PHILADELPHIA, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- William LaForge
- Congressman John Lewis
- Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
- Atty. Constance Iona Slaughter-Harvey
- Paula C. Johnson and Janis L. McDonald

2013 MERIDIAN, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Judge Veldore F. Young
- Reverend R. Gerald L. Durley
- Flonzie Brown Wright
- Jeff Steinberg
- The Jackson Advocate

2012 PHILADELPHIA, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Joan Sadoff
- Jerusalem Temple Church
- Bishop Ronnie C. Crudup, Sr.
- Jerry Mitchell
- Richelle Putnam

2011 PHILADELPHIA, MS - CIVIL RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDEES

- Loreda Fox
- The Philadelphia (MS) Coalition
- Tougaloo College
- Reverend Dr. Charles Johnson
- Rosalie Steve



The power to
**CHANGE
YOUR
WORLD**

MiamiOH.edu



**MIAMI
UNIVERSITY**

OXFORD, OH • EST. 1809

VOICES FOR LIBERTY

FREE SPEECH · CIVIL RIGHTS · SOCIAL PROGRESS

is proud to sponsor

The 2025 National Civil Rights Conference

The Voices for Liberty Initiative examines the intersection of civil rights and free speech through significant research and scholarship, a nationwide speakers bureau, and numerous public events.

Connect With Us



VoicesForLiberty.law.gmu.edu



[voicesforliberty](https://www.youtube.com/voicesforliberty)



vfli@gmu.edu



Steadfast.

is proud to sponsor

The 2025 National Civil Rights Conference

We believe that advancing liberty, protecting individual rights, and growing strong communities is among the most important work being done.

So we assembled a team of professionals with the same principles and decades of experience running and growing organizations, ready to support you.

Do you need a steadfast partner?

Connect With Us



info@steadfast.us



[Steadfast.us](https://steadfast.us)



Congratulations to the
**NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS
CONFERENCE**

on your remarkable 14TH years of
success and continued
dedication to justice, equity, and
empowerment is truly inspiring.



The Kitchen Genealogist

DR. CAROLYN HALIBURTON CARTER

Exploring the rich history of family lineage, ancestry and storytelling!

Website: <https://www.thekitchengenealogist.com/>
Instagram: [thekitchengenealogist](#)

Email: thekitchengenealogist@gmail.com
Facebook/Meta: [carolyn.carter](#)



LET'S
HAVE
MANVERSION LLC®

Let's Have a Manversion® is a God-Given Vision that exists to motivate, educate, empower,
and connect Men in our communities through intentional and transparent dialogue.

CONGRATULATIONS

as we

*Engage, Educate and Empower
at the 14th Annual National Civil Rights Conference*

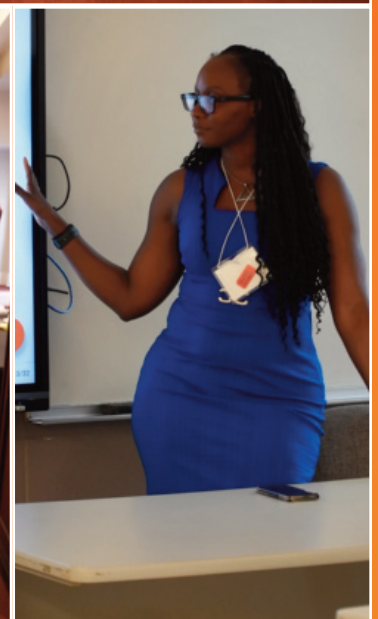
DR. OMEKIA MCNEAL

Visionary | Media Strategist | Faith-Driven Expert God-Given Expertise to Help You Transform Ideas
Into Reality — Every Idea Deserves A Healthy Beginning!

givebutter.com/letshavemanversion
belindagailmanagement.com
<https://www.bgmwebsites.com/>



PAST NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCES





FISK
UNIVERSITY

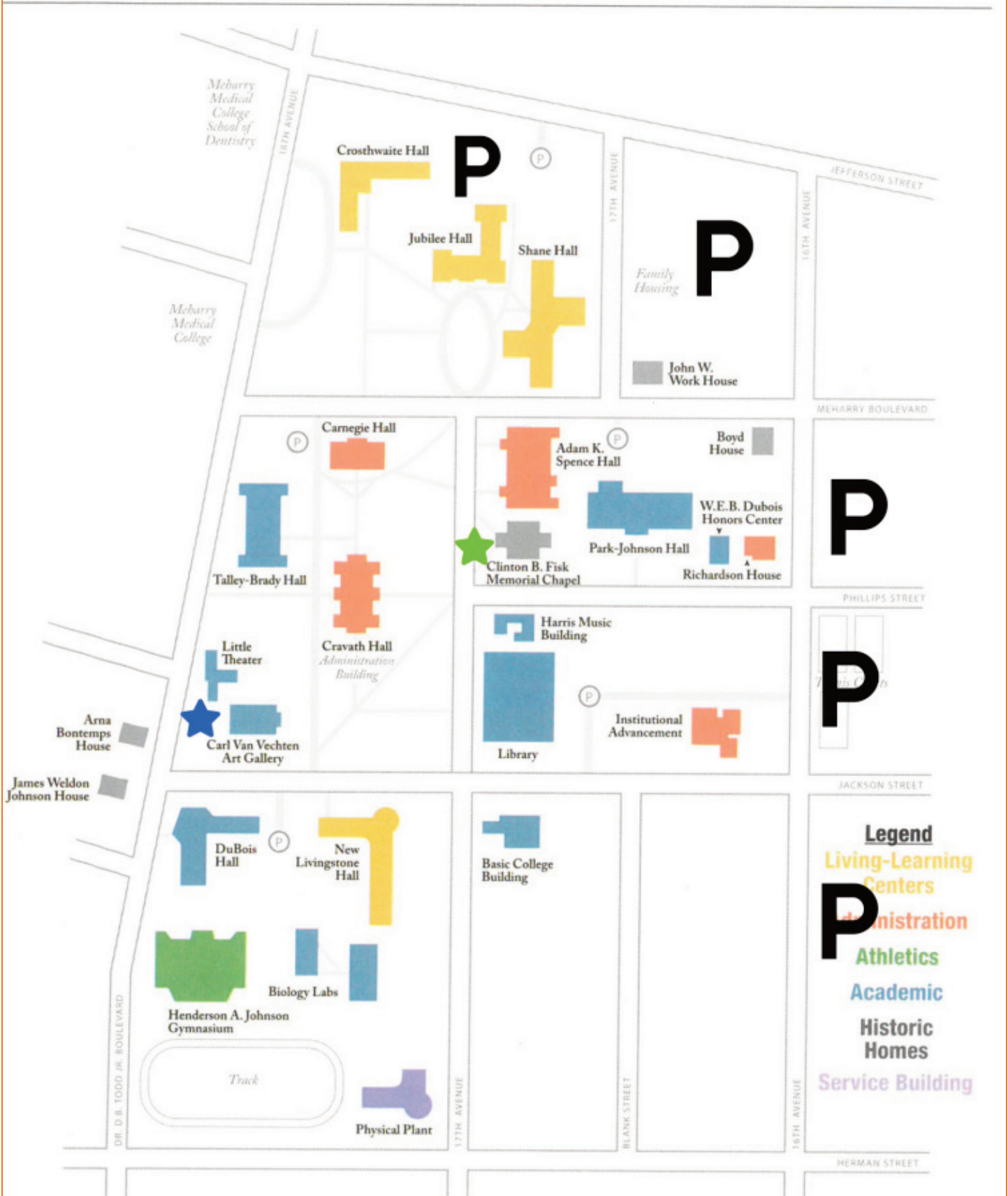
Office of Recruitment and Admission • 615.329.8666

Office of Financial Aid • 615.329.8735

Office of Campus Safety • 615.329.8777

CAMPUS MAP

1000 Seventeenth Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37208-3051
www.fisk.edu





WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

WELCOMES YOU TO THE CITY OF DETROIT
FOR THE

15TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS CONFERENCE

JUNE 18-20, 2026

DETROIT, MICHIGAN



www.wcccd.edu